Resumption of rocket launches from Sriharikota

1544. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY. Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sriharikota rocket launching station in Andhra Pradesh was damaged in a cyclone last year;

(b) whether launching of rockets has been resumed from this station after making necessary repairs/modifications at the station;

(c) what is the number of satellite proposed to be launched from this station and the purpose to be served by these launches; and

(d) whether there are any plans to expand the rocket launching station at Sriharikota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIFNCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) There was no serious damage as a result of cyclones last year, that is, 1985. However extensive damages occured at Sriharikota on account of a severe cyclone in November, 1984.

(b) Launching of sounding rockets from Sriharikota was resumed after necessary repairs|modifications to facilities damaged during the 1984 cyclone.

(c) As per the approved Space Programme, the Launching of Stretched Rohini Satellite Series (SROSS) (150 kg. Class Satellites) using the Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV), and an Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS) (1000 kg. Class satellite) utilising the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), from Sriharikota, are planned in the next few years. The SROSS satellites will carry out scientific, and technological experiments and the IRS satellite will be used for remote sensing applications.

(d) Augmentation of the existing facilities, depending upon the needs, is a continuous process, and action in this regard is taken as and when necessary.

Manufacture of electronic grade laminates by M/s. OAK India Ltd.

1545. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M|s. Oak India Ltd. is going to set up a plant to manufacture electronic grade laminates.

(b) whether these laminates are used for making printed circuit-boards and are used in several industries like telecommunications, aerospace and television; and

(c) whether the proposed plant is likely to save the country from the import of laminates and if so, the estimated expected savings of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. The manufacture of this item will result in import substitution though it is difficult at this stage to estimate the expected foreign exchange savings.

Afforestation programmes for Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab

1548. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to undertake afforestation in idle